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SERIAL NO: 09/823,850	FILING DATE: March 30, 2001	EXAMINER: Not Yet Known	GROUP ART UNIT: 1645	
INVENTION: METHODS FOR DETERMINING THE TRUE SIGNAL OF AN ANALYTE				

TO COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

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By: David A. Gay  
David A. Gay, Reg. No. 39,200

October 8, 2002  
Date of Signature

Transmitted herewith are the following documents in connection with the above-identified application:

1. Request for Corrected Patent Application Publication (in duplicate).
2. Exhibits A.
3. Return postcard.

Please charge my Deposit Account No. 03-0370 the amount of \$           . A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 03-0370. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 03-0370 any fees under 37 CFR 1.17 which may be required under 37 CFR 1.136(a)(3) for an extension of time in any concurrent or future reply requiring a petition for extension of time. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT  
Our Docket: P-IS 4588

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

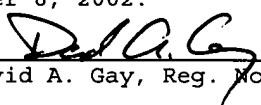
re application of: Ideker et al.  
Serial No.: 09/823,850  
Filed: March 30, 2001  
For: METHODS FOR DETERMINING THE TRUE SIGNAL OF AN ANALYTE

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Group Art Unit: 1645

Examiner: Not Yet Known

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Plunkett  
10/22/02

REQUEST FOR CORRECTED PATENT APPLICATION PUBLICATION

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.221(b), the publication of the above-identified application, publication No. US-2002-0107640-A1, published August 8, 2002, is respectfully requested to be corrected.

On page 11, paragraph [0092], please delete "P" in the first formula and replace with --p--.

On page 15, claim 17, please delete "gorup" and replace with --group--.

On page 16, claim 52, paragraph (d), please delete "signal p" and replace with --signal  $\mu$ --.

On page 17, claim 66, please delete "form" and replace with --from--.

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Inventors: Ideker et al.  
Serial No.: 09/823,850  
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Page 2

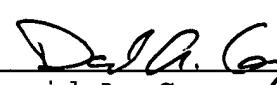
Submitted herewith is a copy of pages 11, 15 through 17, of the publication as it was published on August 8, 2002, with corrections noted thereon (Exhibit A).

Accordingly, Applicants request that this errors be corrected in the USPTO's electronic copy of the Specification and that the USPTO publish a corrected patent application publication.

No fee is deemed necessary to file this Request. If any fee is required, authorization is hereby given to charge the amount to Deposit Account No. 03-0370. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed for this purpose.

Respectfully submitted,

October 8, 2002  
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[0089] where  $(\mu_{xi}, \mu_{yi})$  is the pair of true mean intensities for gene i. For each i and j, the multiplicative errors  $\epsilon_{xij}$  and  $\epsilon_{yij}$  are drawn from a bivariate normal distribution with means 0, standard deviations  $\sigma_{ex}$  and  $\sigma_{ey}$ , and correlation  $\rho_e$ . The additive errors  $\delta_{xij}$  and  $\delta_{yij}$  are distributed analogously, with parameters  $\sigma_{\delta x}$ ,  $\sigma_{\delta y}$  and  $\rho_{\delta}$ . Thus, multiplicative and additive errors are independent of one another but can each be highly correlated between x and y; in practice  $\rho_e$  is large and  $\rho_{\delta}$  is small. While  $x_{ij}$  and  $y_{ij}$  can be negative if the foreground is less than the estimated background for a spot, the true intensities  $\mu_{xi}$  and  $\mu_{yi}$  must be non-negative. Consequently, the samples  $(x_{ij}$  and  $y_{ij})$  are described by a bivariate normal probability density function p with parameters  $\mu_{xi}$  and  $\mu_{yi}$ ,  $\sigma_{xi}$ ,  $\sigma_{yi}$  and  $\rho_{xi,yi}$ , where:

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma_{xi} &= \sqrt{\mu_{xi}^2 \sigma_{ex}^2 + \sigma_{\delta x}^2} \\ \sigma_{yi} &= \sqrt{\mu_{yi}^2 \sigma_{ey}^2 + \sigma_{\delta y}^2} \\ \rho_{xi,yi} &= \frac{\mu_{xi}\mu_{yi}\rho_e\sigma_{ex}\sigma_{ey} + \rho_{\delta}\sigma_{\delta x}\sigma_{\delta y}}{\sigma_{xi}\sigma_{yi}}\end{aligned}$$

[0090] The model depends on six gene-independent parameters  $\beta = (\sigma_{ex}, \sigma_{ey}, \rho_e, \sigma_{\delta x}, \sigma_{\delta y}, \rho_{\delta})$  and a mean pair per gene,  $\mu = [(\mu_{x1}, \mu_{y1}), (\mu_{x2}, \mu_{y2}), \dots, (\mu_{xN}, \mu_{yN})]$  for a total of  $2N+6$  parameters. The probability density function for gene i is  $p = p(x_{ij}, y_{ij} | \beta, \mu_{xi}, \mu_{yi})$ .

#### [0091] Parameter Estimation by Maximum Likelihood

[0092] Since  $\beta$  and  $\mu$  are generally unknown, they can be estimated by using a maximum likelihood estimation (MLE) as described by Kendall and Stuart, *The Advanced Theory of Statistics*, Volume 2 (4<sup>th</sup> ed., Macmillan Publishing Co., New York, N.Y., 1979), which is incorporated herein by reference. Likelihood functions, for gene i and over all genes, are respectively defined as:

$$\begin{aligned}L_i(\beta, \mu_{xi}, \mu_{yi}) &= \prod_{j=1}^M p(x_{ij}, y_{ij} | \beta, \mu_{xi}, \mu_{yi}) \\ L(\beta, \mu) &= \prod_{i=1}^N L_i(\beta, \mu_{xi}, \mu_{yi})\end{aligned}$$

[0093] The MLE parameter values maximizing L, designated  $\beta$  and  $\mu$ , are estimates for the true parameters of the underlying statistical model. In general, these values can be found using standard optimization procedures as described by Press et al., *Numerical Recipes in C: The Art of Scientific Computing* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed., Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, Mass.). Because N can be large  $\beta$  and  $\mu$ , can be determined by optimizing subsets of parameters in separate stages:

- [0094] (1) choose initial values for  $\mu$ ,
- [0095] (2) select  $\beta$  to maximize L given current values of  $\mu$ ,
- [0096] (3) for  $i=1, \dots, N$ : select  $(\mu_{xi}, \mu_{yi})$  to maximize  $L_i$ , given current values of  $\beta$ , and
- [0097] (4) repeat (2) and (3) until  $\beta$ ,  $\mu$  have converged.

[0098] All stages of the optimization were performed using the procedure fmincon provided by Matlab and described by Coleman et al., *Matlab Optimization Toolbox User's Guide* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed., Mathworks, Inc., Natick, Mass., 1999), which was incorporated herein by reference. The optimization was also implemented in C code, which produces comparable optimal parameters in substantially less execution time (less than 10 minutes on a Pentium III 500 for  $N=6000$ ,  $M=4$ , as compared with 4-5 hours for the Matlab implementation). In both cases, all parameters converged within 250 iterations of stages (2) and (3) and are insensitive to initial choices for  $\beta$  and  $\mu$ .

#### [0099] Significance Testing using Likelihood Ratios

[0100] After the parameters have been determined for a given set of observations, it is of immediate interest to use the model to identify mean intensity pairs which are significantly unequal such that  $\mu_{xi} \neq \mu_{yi}$ , representing genes that are differentially expressed between the two cell populations. For each gene i, the generalized likelihood ratio test (GLRT) (Kendall and Stuart 1979) statistic  $\lambda_i$  is computed according to:

$$\lambda_i = -2 \ln \left( \frac{\max_{\mu} L_i(\beta, \mu, \mu)}{\max_{\mu_x, \mu_y} L_i(\beta, \mu_x, \mu_y)} \right)$$

[0101] Two maximizations are performed: in the numerator, the constraint  $\mu_x = \mu_y = \mu$  is imposed, while in the denominator the optimization is unconstrained. Under the null hypothesis that  $\mu_x = \mu_y$ ,  $\beta$  remains a consistent estimator when the constraint is imposed.

[0102] In the case that  $\mu_{xi} = \mu_{yi}$ ,  $\lambda_i$  follows (asymptotically in M and N) a  $\chi^2$  distribution with 1 degree of freedom (DOF), whereas if  $\mu_{xi} \neq \mu_{yi}$ , the value of  $\lambda_i$  is expected to be larger than would be obtained from random sampling of this distribution. To select differentially-expressed genes with a selection error of  $\alpha$ , the false positive or Type-I error rate, one would first determine the critical value  $\lambda_{ci}$  for which the  $\chi^2$  cumulative probability distribution is equal to  $1-\alpha$ , then select the set of all genes i for which  $\lambda_i$  is in the critical region  $\lambda_i > \lambda_{ci}$ . The particular choice of  $\alpha$  depends on the number of genes on the array and the selection error which the individual investigator is willing to tolerate.

#### EXAMPLE II

##### Identification of Genes Differentially-Expressed in Response to Galactose Stimulation of Yeast Cells

[0103] This example describes application of the mathematical model of the variability observed over repeated observations of intensities for genes represented on a DNA microarray to the identification of genes differentially-expressed in response to galactose stimulation.

##### [0104] Assembly of the Microarray

[0105] In order to explore the performance of the test for differentially-expressed genes as shown in Example I, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* cultures growing in the absence of galactose (YPD media) were compared to those growing in galactose-stimulating conditions (YPRG) using a DNA

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising selecting a mean signal  $\mu$  that provides a maximum probability of likelihood given said observed signal.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein said additive and multiplicative errors are independent with respect to each other.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein said observed signal and said mean signal further comprises the relationship:

$$x_{ij} = \mu_{xi} + \mu_{xi} \epsilon_{xij} + \delta_{xij}$$

where each measurement  $j=1, \dots, M$ , each analyte  $i=1, \dots, N$ , and where  $x_{ij}$  is the observed signal and  $\mu_{xi}$  is the mean signal.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein said additive and multiplicative errors further comprise a univariate distribution.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein said univariate distribution is a parametric distribution.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein said parametric distribution is a univariate normal distribution.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein said univariate normal distribution and said system parameter further comprise a multiplicative error term consisting of a normal distribution having standard deviation with respect to a signal mean ( $\sigma_{ex}$ ) and an additive error term consisting of a normal distribution having standard deviation with respect to a signal mean ( $\sigma_{ax}$ ).

9. The method of claim 6, wherein said parametric distribution is a t-distribution.

10. The method of claim 6, wherein said parametric distribution is a gamma distribution.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein said mean signal and system parameter are determined at the same time.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein said system parameter is determined before said mean signal is determined.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein said predetermined system parameter is used to determine said mean signal.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein said enhanced values for said probability likelihood of said observed signals are produced one or more times until said mean signal and said system parameter converge.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein said mean signal and said system parameter are determined by a method selected from the group consisting of maximum likelihood estimation (MLE), Quasi-Maximum Likelihood and Generalized Method of Moments.

16. The method of claim 1, wherein determining said mean signal and said system parameter further comprises a non-linear optimization algorithm.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein said optimization algorithm is selected from the group consisting of Gradient Descent, Newton-Raphson and Simulated Annealing.

18. A method of determining a true signal of an analyte, comprising:

(a) obtaining an observed signal  $x$  for one or more analytes;

(b) providing a mean signal ( $\mu$ ) and a system parameter ( $\beta$ ) for said analyte;

(c) computing a probability likelihood of said observed signal, said observed signal being related to said mean signal by an additive error ( $\delta$ ) and a multiplicative error ( $\epsilon$ ), where said system parameter specifies properties of said additive error and said multiplicative error, and

(d) selecting a mean signal  $\mu$  and a system parameter ( $\beta$ ) that provides a maximum probability likelihood of occurrence given said observed signal.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein said additive and multiplicative errors are independent with respect to each other.

20. The method of claim 18, wherein said observed signal and said mean signal further comprises the relationship:

$$x_{ij} = \mu_{xi} + \mu_{xi} \epsilon_{xij} + \delta_{xij}$$

where each measurement  $j=1, \dots, N$ , each analyte  $i=1, \dots, N$ , and where  $x_{ij}$  is the observed signal and  $\mu_{xi}$  is the mean signal.

21. The method of claim 18, wherein said additive and multiplicative errors further comprise a univariate distribution.

22. The method of claim 1, wherein said univariate distribution is a parametric distribution.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein said parametric distribution is a univariate normal distribution.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein said univariate normal distribution and said system parameter further comprise a multiplicative error term consisting of a normal distribution having standard deviation with respect to a signal mean ( $\sigma_{ex}$ ), and an additive error term consisting of a normal distribution having standard deviation with respect to a signal mean ( $\sigma_{ax}$ ).

25. The method of claim 22, wherein said parametric distribution is a t-distribution.

26. The method of claim 22, wherein said parametric distribution is a gamma distribution.

27. The method of claim 18, wherein said mean signal and system parameter are selected at the same time.

28. The method of claim 18, wherein said system parameter is selected before said mean signal is determined.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein said preselected system parameter is used to select said mean signal.

30. The method of claim 18, further comprising computing said probability likelihood one or more times until said mean signal and said system parameter converge.

31. The method of claim 18, wherein said mean signal and said system parameter are determined by a method selected from the group consisting of maximum likelihood estimation (MLE), Quasi-Maximum Likelihood and Generalized Method of Moments.

32. The method of claim 18, wherein selecting said mean signal and said system parameter further comprises a non-linear optimization algorithm.

33. The method of claim 32, wherein said optimization algorithm is selected from the group consisting of Gradient Descent, Newton-Raphson and Simulated Annealing.

34. A method of determining relative amounts of an analyte between samples, comprising:

(a) measuring observed signals  $x$  and  $y$  for an analyte within two or more sample pairs, and

(b) determining a mean signal pair per analyte ( $\mu$ ) and a system parameter ( $\beta$ ) for each sample pair that produce enhanced values for a probability likelihood of said observed signals, said observed signals being related to said mean signals by an additive error ( $\delta$ ) and a multiplicative error ( $\epsilon$ ), where said system parameter specifies properties of said additive error ( $\delta$ ) and said multiplicative error ( $\epsilon$ ).

35. The method of claim 34, further comprising selecting a mean signal  $p$  that provides a maximum probability of occurrence given said observed signals.

36. The method of claim 34, wherein said additive and multiplicative errors are independent with respect to each other.

37. The method of claim 34, wherein said observed signals and said mean signal pair per analyte within said sample pairs further comprise the relationship:

$$x_{ij} = \mu_{xi} + \mu_{xi} \epsilon_{xij} + \delta_{xij}, \text{ and}$$

$$y_{ij} = \mu_{yi} + \mu_{yi} \epsilon_{yij} + \delta_{yij}$$

where each measurement  $j$  equals 1 through  $M$  and each analyte  $i$  equals 1 through  $N$ ; where  $x_{ij}$  and  $y_{ij}$  are the observed signals, and where  $\mu_{xi}$  and  $\mu_{yi}$  are the mean signals.

38. The method of claim 34, wherein said additive and multiplicative errors further comprise a bivariate distribution.

39. The method of claim 38, wherein said bivariate distribution is a parametric distribution.

40. The method of claim 38, wherein said parametric distribution is a bivariate normal distribution.

41. The method of claim 40, wherein said bivariate normal distribution and said system parameter further comprises a multiplicative error term consisting of a standard deviation with respect to a mean of signal  $x$  ( $\sigma_{\epsilon_x}$ ), a standard deviation with respect to a mean of signal  $y$  ( $\sigma_{\epsilon_y}$ ) and a correlation between signals  $x$  and  $y$  ( $\rho_{xy}$ ), and an additive error term consisting of a standard deviation with respect to a mean of signal  $x$  ( $\sigma_{\delta_x}$ ), a standard deviation with respect to a mean of signal  $y$  ( $\sigma_{\delta_y}$ ) and a correlation between signals  $x$  and  $y$  ( $\rho_{\delta}$ ).

42. The method of claim 39, wherein said parametric distribution is a t-distribution.

43. The method of claim 39, wherein said parametric distribution is a bivariate gamma distribution.

44. The method of claim 34, wherein said mean signal pair per analyte and system parameter are determined at the same time.

45. The method of claim 34, wherein said system parameter is determined before said mean signal pair per analyte is determined.

46. The method of claim 45, wherein said predetermined system parameter is used to determine said mean signal pair per analyte.

47. The method of claim 34, wherein said enhanced values for said probability likelihood of said observed signals are produced one or more times until said mean signal pair per analyte and said system parameter converge.

48. The method of claim 34, wherein determining said mean signal pair per analyte and said system parameter further comprises a non-linear optimization algorithm.

49. The method of claim 48, wherein said optimization algorithm is selected from the group consisting of Gradient Descent, Newton-Raphson and Simulated Annealing.

50. The method of claim 34, further comprising identifying significantly unequal mean signal pairs per analyte by a statistical difference indicator.

51. The method of claim 50, wherein said difference indicator further comprises a generalized likelihood ratio test statistic ( $\lambda$ ).

52. A method of determining relative amounts of an analyte between samples, comprising:

(a) obtaining observed signals  $x$  and  $y$  for an analyte within two or more sample pairs;

(b) providing a mean signal pair per analyte ( $\mu$ ) and a system parameter ( $\beta$ ) for each sample pair;

(c) computing a probability likelihood of said observed signals, said observed signals being related to said mean signal by an additive error ( $\delta$ ) and a multiplicative error ( $\epsilon$ ), where said system parameter specifies the properties of said additive error and said multiplicative error, and

(d) selecting a mean signal  $p$  and a system parameter ( $\beta$ ) that provides a maximum probability likelihood of occurrence given said observed signals.

53. The method of claim 52, wherein said additive and multiplicative errors are independent with respect to each other.

54. The method of claim 52, wherein said observed signals and said mean signal pair per analyte within said sample pairs further comprise the relationship:

$$x_{ij} = \mu_{xi} + \mu_{xi} \epsilon_{xij} + \delta_{xij}, \text{ and}$$

$$y_{ij} = \mu_{yi} + \mu_{yi} \epsilon_{yij} + \delta_{yij}$$

where each measurement  $j$  equals 1 through  $M$  and each analyte  $i$  equals 1 through  $N$ ; where  $x_{ij}$  and  $y_{ij}$  are the observed signals, and where  $\mu_{xi}$  and  $\mu_{yi}$  are the mean signals.

55. The method of claim 52, wherein said additive and multiplicative errors further comprise a bivariate distribution.

56. The method of claim 55, wherein said bivariate distribution is a parametric distribution.

57. The method of claim 56, wherein said parametric distribution is a bivariate normal distribution.

58. The method of claim 57, wherein said bivariate normal distribution and said system parameter further comprise a multiplicative error term consisting of a standard deviation with respect to a mean of signal  $x$  ( $\sigma_{\epsilon_x}$ ), a standard deviation with respect to a mean of signal  $y$  ( $\sigma_{\epsilon_y}$ ) and a correlation between signals  $x$  and  $y$  ( $\rho_{xy}$ ), and an additive error term consisting of a standard deviation with respect to a mean of signal  $x$  ( $\sigma_{\delta_x}$ ), a standard deviation with respect to a mean of signal  $y$  ( $\sigma_{\delta_y}$ ) and a correlation between signals  $x$  and  $y$  ( $\rho_{\delta}$ ).

59. The method of claim 56, wherein said parametric distribution is a t-distribution.

60. The method of claim 56, wherein said mean signal pair per analyte and system parameter are determined at the same time.

61. The method of claim 52, wherein said system parameter is determined before said mean signal pair per analyte is determined.

62. The method of claim 61, wherein said predetermined system parameter is used to determine said mean signal pair per analyte.

63. The method of claim 52, further comprising computing said probability likelihood of said observed signals one or more times until said mean signal pair per analyte and said system parameter converge.

64. The method of claim 52, wherein said mean signal pair per analyte and said system parameter are determined by a method selected from the group consisting of maximum likelihood estimation (MLE), Quasi-Maximum Likelihood and Generalized Method of Moments.

65. The method of claim 52, wherein selecting said mean signal pair per analyte and said system parameter further comprises a non-linear optimization algorithm.

66. The method of claim 65, wherein said optimization algorithm is selected from the group consisting of Gradient Descent, Newton-Raphson and Simulated Annealing.

67. The method of claim 52, further comprising identifying said mean signal pair per analyte that are significantly unequal using a difference indicator.

68. The method of claim 67, wherein said difference indicator further comprises a generalized likelihood ratio test statistic ( $\lambda$ ).

69. The method of claim 67, further comprising selecting two or more mean signal pairs per analyte having a difference indicator greater than that corresponding to a false positive error rate.

70. The method of claim 52, wherein said analyte is a nucleic acid or polypeptide.

71. A method of determining relative amounts of analytes between samples, comprising:

(a) obtaining observed signals  $x$  and  $y$  for a plurality of immobilized analytes within two or more sample pairs;

(b) determining a mean signal pair per analyte ( $\mu$ ) and a system parameter ( $\beta$ ) for each sample pair that provides a maximum probability likelihood of occurrence given said observed signals, said observed signals being related to said mean signal by an additive error ( $\delta$ ) and a multiplicative error ( $\epsilon$ ), where said system parameter specifies the properties of said additive error and said multiplicative error, and

(c) identifying one or more mean signal pairs per analyte that is significantly unequal.

72. The method of claim 71, wherein said additive and multiplicative errors are independent with respect to each other.

73. The method of claim 71, wherein said observed signals and said mean signal pair per analyte within said sample pairs further comprise the relationship:

$$x_{ij} = \mu_{xi} + \mu_{xi} \epsilon_{xij} + \delta_{xij}, \text{ and}$$

$$y_{ij} = \mu_{yi} + \mu_{yi} \epsilon_{yij} + \delta_{yij}$$

where each measurement  $j$  equals 1 through  $M$  and each analyte  $i$  equals 1 through  $N$ ; where  $x_{ij}$  and  $y_{ij}$  are the observed signals, and where  $\mu_{xi}$  and  $\mu_{yi}$  are the mean signals.

74. The method of claim 71, wherein said one or more mean signal pairs per analyte are identified as significantly unequal by using a difference indicator.

75. The method of claim 74, wherein said difference indicator further comprises a generalized likelihood ratio test statistic ( $\lambda$ ).

76. The method of claim 74, further comprising selecting two or more mean signal pairs per analyte having a difference indicator greater than that corresponding to a false positive error rate.

77. The method of claim 71, wherein said analyte is a nucleic acid or polypeptide.

78. The method of claim 71, wherein said plurality of analytes further comprises about 1,000 or more different analytes.

79. The method of claim 71, wherein said plurality of analytes further comprises about 10,000 or more different analytes.

80. The method of claim 71, wherein said plurality of analytes further comprises about 30,000 or more different analytes.

81. The method of claim 71, further comprising analytes mobilized on a microarray.

82. The method of claim 71, further comprising the steps of:

(a) obtaining one or more reference signals, and

(b) determining a mean signal pair ( $\mu$ ) and a system parameter ( $\beta$ ) for a sample pair comprising said observed signal  $x$  or  $y$  and said reference signal that provides a maximum probability likelihood of occurrence given said reference and observed signals, said reference and observed signals being related to said mean signal by an additive error ( $\delta$ ) and a multiplicative error ( $\epsilon$ ), where said system parameter specifies the properties of said additive error and said multiplicative error.

83. A method of determining relative amounts of an analyte between samples, comprising:

(a) obtaining a reference signal;

(b) obtaining observed signals  $x$  and  $y$  for an analyte within two or more sample pairs;

(c) determining system parameters ( $\beta_1, \beta_2$ ) for a sample pair comprising said observed signals  $x$  or  $y$  and said reference signal that provide a probability likelihood of said occurrence given said observed and reference signals, said observed and reference signals being related to said mean signal by an additive error ( $\delta$ ) and a multiplicative error ( $\epsilon$ ), where said system parameter specifies the properties of said additive error and said multiplicative error;

(d) determining mean signal pairs ( $\mu_x, \mu_y$ ) for said sample pair comprising maximizing a product of terms for said probability likelihood of said sample pair of observed signals  $x$  or  $y$  and said reference signal for said analyte, and

(e) selecting a mean signal  $\mu_x$  or  $\mu_y$  that provides a maximum probability likelihood of occurrence given said observed signals and system parameters  $\beta_1$  and  $\beta_2$ .

84. The method of claim 83, wherein said mean signal pairs ( $\mu_x, \mu_y$ ) are determined using  $\beta_1$  and  $\beta_2$  obtained from step (c).

85. A method of determining relative amounts of an analyte between samples, comprising:

(a) measuring observed signals  $x, y$  and  $z$  for an analyte within two or more sample sets, and

(b) determining a mean signal set per analyte ( $\mu$ ) and a system parameter ( $\beta$ ) for each sample set that produce enhanced values for a probability likelihood for said observed signals, said observed signals being related to mean signals by an additive error ( $\delta$ ) and a multiplicative error ( $\epsilon$ ).

\* \* \* \* \*